

# RIVER RAISIN HERITAGE TRAIL SYSTEM

## Enjoy the Experience

### ENJOY THE WATER



Sterling State Park, the only state park on Lake Erie, includes over one mile of beaches, boating, shore fishing and fishing lagoons, and lakefront camping. The trail parallels the River Raisin which is canoeable for much of its length and provides a scenic backdrop for any adventure.

### ENJOY THE SITES



The trail takes you through the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, past iconic buildings, and into historic neighborhoods. The route encourages short detours into walkable downtown Monroe with destinations that include quaint shops, fashionable restaurants, and an outstanding museum and library.

### ENJOY OUR HISTORY



Founded in 1785, Monroe is Michigan's third oldest city. The trail takes you right through the heart of one of the bloodiest battles in the War of 1812. The city is also the hometown of General George Armstrong Custer, a Civil War hero who is best known for his demise in the Battle of Little Bighorn. Historical markers and monuments dot the route to bring the stories alive.



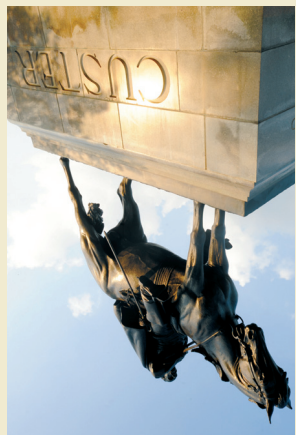
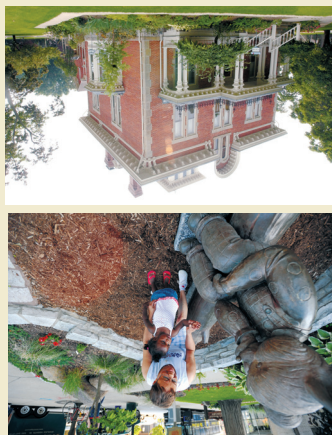
**Welcome to the River Raisin Heritage Trail System**, where eight miles of paved hike-bike trails provide safe and scenic routes to walk, run, cycle and in-line skate. The trail connects major historic sites, state and local parks, nationally significant buildings, monuments and important natural and ecological features. Parking areas and facilities can be found along the trails for your convenience.

## Historic Downtown

### THINGS TO SEE

Monroe is one of the oldest communities in the state of Michigan boasting a long and illustrious history and strong ties to the area's original French habitants. Monroe was also the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812—the significance of which has been recognized with the River Raisin Battlefield's designation as the newest unit of the National Park Service.

on the banks of the historic River Raisin, just a stone's throw from the General George A. Custer Equestrian Monument—which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. Quaint shops, restaurants and cafes, historic neighborhoods, and an eclectic mix of architecture are only part of Monroe's unique charm. The city, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and community partners recently christened the River Raisin Heritage Trail connecting the William C. Sterling State Park to the River Raisin Battlefield National Park – unique to say the least.



EIGHT MILES OF WILDERNESS, RECREATION AND HISTORY

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## Partners

HOLIDAY KICKOFF WEEKEND  
Downtown Monroe

WRITERS ON THE RIVER  
Ellis Library and Reference Center

OCTOBER  
• CUSTER WEEK  
Downtown Monroe  
• LANTERN TOURS  
Navarre-Anderson Trading Post

SEPTEMBER  
• RIVER RAISIN LABOR DAY BBQ  
Downtown Monroe

MONROE COUNTY JAM AND RIVER RAISIN RIB-OFF  
Monroe County Fairgrounds

DOWNTOWN MONROE FINE ART FAIR  
Downtown Monroe

RIVER RAISIN JAZZ FESTIVAL  
St. Mary's Park, Downtown Monroe

LOTUS TOUR OF MARSHES OF LAKE ERIE

JULY  
• RIVER RAISIN INDEPENDENCE FESTIVAL FIREWORKS  
Sterling State Park

## RIVER RAISIN HERITAGE TRAIL MAP AND GUIDE



# RIVER RAISIN

## HERITAGE TRAIL

MONROE • MICHIGAN



## Events & Activities

### THINGS TO DO

#### JANUARY

• RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD COMMEMORATION

#### FEBRUARY

• MONROE MAGAZINE ARTIST SHOWCASE  
IHM Motherhouse  
• MCLS BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLUES SERIES  
Various library branches and La-Z-Boy Center-Meyer Theater/MCCC Campus

#### MAY

• RIVER RAISIN JAZZ SERIES (MAY-AUGUST)  
Downtown Monroe Restaurants

#### JUNE

• RIVER RAISIN FIFE AND DRUM MUSTER  
Loranger Square, Downtown Monroe  
• CONCERTS IN THE PARK (JUNE-AUGUST)  
St. Mary's Park



# RIVER RAISIN HERITAGE TRAIL SYSTEM



**SURFACE KEY & LEGEND**

- SIDEWALK (ONE SIDE)
- SIDEWALK (BOTH SIDES)
- ASPHALT PATH
- RAILROAD
- RESTROOMS
- OPEN APR.-NOV.
- OPEN ALL YEAR

- 11 Navarre-Anderson Trading Post
- 12 Munson Park
- 13 St. Antoine Memorial Monument
- 14 Veterans Park
- 15 Monroe Family YMCA

- 5 Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 6 Memorial Place/Kentucky Monument (War of 1812)
- 7 Monroe County Historical Museum
- 8 St. Mary Catholic Church
- 9 Custer Equestrian Monument
- 10 Loranger Courthouse Square

- 1 River Raisin National Battlefield Park
- 2 Accessible Fishing Pier
- 3 Ford Marsh/Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
- 4 Wm. C. Sterling State Park

## RECREATION & FITNESS | 1.4 MILES

This section of the trail is the preeminent venue for local fitness enthusiasts. It is not unusual to find young mothers with strollers, pet owners, couples, friends, joggers, and bikers sharing the trail year-round. The local YMCA is the eastern anchor providing a point of departure to cultural and recreational amenities located on the west side of the city. At the mid-point, Veterans Park salutes our military men and women who have served from WWI through the present. Veterans Park also offers the opportunity to fish along the River Raisin, enjoy a leisurely lunch outside, or take a few moments to relax during a workout on the trail. Proceeding west from Veterans Park, the trail provides scenic views of the river and terminates in Monroe's premier recreational facility, Munson Park. The park offers skateboarding, soccer and ball fields, walking and nature trails, a sledding hill and much more. On-street bike lanes continue to the 18th century Navarre-Anderson Trading Post.

This section of the trail is constructed of asphalt and averages 6 feet in width. The path goes under Telegraph Road and crosses to the north side of North Custer (W. Elm Avenue) as it nears Munson Park. A 5-foot-wide shoulder bike path now connects Munson Park to the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post.

## HISTORY & CULTURE | 1.7 MILES

This section of the trail runs through an area containing some of Monroe's oldest and most elegant homes. From early territorial governors to industrial leaders, Elm Avenue and its adjoining neighborhoods reflect architectural styles and periods ranging from the early 19th century through today. The Custer Equestrian Monument and St. Mary Catholic Church are two of the community's most notable landmarks. Visitors can also find shops, restaurants and cultural attractions, such as a Custer Exhibit at the Monroe County Historical Museum and the War of 1812 Memorial Place. Downtown is easily accessible from Elm Avenue via Monroe and Macomb Streets.

City sidewalks make up a majority of this section of the trail and range in width from 4 – 6 feet. The Riverwalk, a 10-foot wide pathway running along the river, is accessible from St. Mary's Park (near the Custer monument) and at the Macomb Street Bridge.

## BATTLEFIELD & WETLANDS | 4.4 MILES

This section of the trail, which is largely contained within Sterling State Park, is adjacent to the Ford Marsh unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, and is near to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, site of a significant battle in the War of 1812. The trail provides visitors with an outstanding opportunity to step back in time and experience the marshes and wetlands that the early French settlers first explored, hunted, and called home. Views of Lake Erie and of the natural habitats of indigenous wildlife and waterfowl are accessible from the main path and side trails. Bicyclists can experience nature on an extended ride and bird watchers can add unique species to their sighting list.

This section of the trail is an 8-10-foot wide asphalt path with several side trails and viewing decks. The trail can be accessed from Sterling State Park, the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, or the City of Monroe's Multi-Sports Complex (on N. Dixie Highway west of the battlefield).

From the parking area at the start of the Sterling State Park Loop, shortest route to the Wetlands Trail Head is 1.5 miles.



SAILING ON LAKE ERIE

